

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,519,064) (hereinafter “Takagi”).

Claims 5 and 6, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 9, 12, 13, 15-17 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 7-8 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have also amended claim 5 to include the features of previous claim 1. Accordingly, claims 5-6, 9, 12-13 and 15-17 remain currently pending for consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi. Claims 5 and 6, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 9, 12, 13, 15-17 are allowed.

Applicants have canceled rejected claims 1-3 and 7-8 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have also amended claim 5 to include the features of previous claim 1 in light of the Office Action’s indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5. Accordingly, newly-amended independent claim 5 is in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Also, claim 6 is in condition for allowance at least because of its dependence from newly-amended independent claim 5.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that the remaining claims 9, 12-13 and 15-17 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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